

Another good meet for equestrians

"The second district meet for the Vernonia High School Equestrian team was an eventful and successful meet for the whole team," said Coach Diane Benes, "I'm pleased with the success and the attitudes of the athletes who represent VHS," she continued, "We had a lot of fun and enjoyed quite a mixture of weather."

Jamie Benes, the only senior on the team, was honored to carry the United States Flag at Grand entry with her teammate, McKenzie Tarkalson, carrying the team's own flag representing the High School.

The top 20 placements from this meet in McMinnville were as follows.

- Team event CA Flags – 3rd

of 14 teams.

- BiRangle – Brianna Carr and Jamie Benes, 3rd of 33.
- Trail – McKenzie Tarkalson, 7th of 31.
- Steer Daubing – Brett Benes, 11th of 22; Jamie Benes 12th, and Brianna Carr 16th.
- Barrels – Brianna Carr, 14th of 47; Jamie Benes, 15th
- Dressage – McKenzie Tarkalson, 18th of 29.
- Poles – Brianna Carr, 16th of 35.
- Figure 8 – Brianna Carr, 7th of 37.
- Keyhole – McKenzie Tarkalson, 9th of 40.

The next meet will be held the second weekend in April, in McMinnville.

Chinook season opens April 15

A sport fishing season for spring chinook in the Hood River will begin April 15 under temporary rules adopted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

The river will be open from the mouth to Powerdale Dam (4.5 miles) for adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon from April 15 through June 30, 2010.

Biologists are expecting a strong return of hatchery origin fish to the Hood River, said Rod French, ODFW district fish biologist. The Hood River chinook

fishery is popular with anglers because it offers a rare opportunity to land a Columbia River chinook from the bank.

The catch limit for chinook salmon is two adipose fin-clipped adults and five adipose fin-clipped jacks per day. All salmon that have not been adipose fin-clipped must be released unharmed.

All other catch limits, seasons and restrictions remain unchanged from those listed for Hood River in the 2010 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.

New apprenticeship website launched

The Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council (OSATC), chaired by Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) Commissioner Brad Avakian, has launched a new, information-packed website to expand outreach to potential apprentices in Oregon. Avakian's top priority as chief of BOLI is to strengthen workforce development and improve access to job opportunities for all Oregonians. The new website, a product of collaboration among various business, labor, government agency and community partners, is <http://oregonapprenticeship.com>.

"This website is going to be a great tool for recruiting the next generation of skilled work-

ers in Oregon," Avakian said. "Reaching out electronically is a key way to renew interest in Oregon apprenticeship, especially among women and people of color who are not traditionally directed toward these career pathways that can lead to high-skill, living-wage jobs."

"Creating the jobs that our apprentices will use to develop their skills and earn while they learn is the critical priority right now," said Avakian. Although a slow economy limits the number of new apprentices currently being registered in approved programs, Avakian emphasized the importance of looking at job training over the longer term. "Raising awareness about apprenticeship opportunities now

Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a column of information about Vernonia schools. This column was provided by Superintendent Ken Cox.

I wanted to let you know that the bonds have been sold and the tax rate is much less than we had expected. I am happy to report that the first year's tax rate will be only \$1.72 per thousand of assessed value, and will drop to \$1.60 after that for the remainder of the bond. This rate was much better than we had expected.

In other good news, we received notice last week that FEMA has lifted the five-year Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant cap for Vernonia. This is great news for the district and our community. Participating in a conference call last Friday with representatives from Oregon Emergency Management in Salem, the FEMA Region X office in Seattle, Dan Brown, Vernonia Flood Recovery staff, and others, I got a better sense of what this means and what lies ahead.

This approval indicates that FEMA has temporarily set aside Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program funds that can be used to buy out almost all of the buildings on our current school site. These are reimbursement funds and will not be available until after the existing buildings are removed. It will however provide 'collateral' that can be used to help us obtain a 'construction loan' to get started on our new schools.

The whole FEMA process however is time consuming. First, we will need to finalize the preliminary application that was used to make the decision. This will include a formal appraisal, which has been completed; completion of a ben-

Apply now for Farm Bureau 2010 scholarships

The Oregon Farm Bureau Women's Advisory Council is now accepting applications for its 2010 Memorial Scholarship.

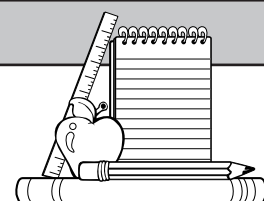
The scholarship is open to women who have completed at least one year of college and are pursuing an agriculture- or forestry-related major. Appli-

cants also must be voting or supporting Farm Bureau members or be part of a family that has a Farm Bureau voting or supporting membership.

Both full-time students, with at least 12 credits per term, and part-time students, with at least 6 credits per term, are eligible.

The scholarship application is available on the Oregon Farm Bureau website at oregonfb.org. Applications are due by May 1, 2010.

For more information, contact Anne Marie Moss at 503-399-1701 or annemarie@oregonfb.org.



efit cost analysis, which is in process; and a duplication of benefits review, which will take into account the insurance proceeds we have received toward our buildings. While this is being done, we will conduct a Phase 1 Environmental Study of the existing site. We have completed this study on the new site and had begun one on part of the existing site in relation to the Spencer Park exchange. All of this is scheduled to be completed by the end of April.

Once we have the initial approval and the overall dollar amount that FEMA will pay us, then we will have to do a comprehensive Environmental Assessment (EA), much of which has already been done. The only problem is that we cannot begin construction on the new schools project until this EA is completed. Estimates on this process alone range anywhere from ninety days to six months. I am optimistic however in that we have already done much of the required studies and believe that through the efforts and influence of our Oregon Solutions partners we can ensure that this timeline will be as short as possible.

I will address this and other issues on the district website as well as answer any questions you might have about progress on the new schools. Please check it out, email me your questions, or fill out one of the question forms that have placed on bulletin boards throughout town and drop it by the district office.

Pet of the Month

*Columbia Humane Society in St. Helens has a variety of wonderful pets available for adoption. Find the pet that's right for you in the shelter at 2084 Oregon Street. Phone 503-397-4353
Open Mon - Fri 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 am. to 5 pm.*

Berkley was described as a perfect dog for the family with kids since he enjoys all the attention he can get. Since he just turned a year old he still acts like a pup. Due to his size and excitement level he may be too much for small kids. If you are looking for a loving dog, Berkley is your guy. Give him the time and patience he deserves and he will be the best friend ever!



The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

This Adopt a Pet is Sponsored by:

Senator Betsy Johnson